

# Goal: Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination

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Establish, strengthen, and expand self-advocacy activities among persons with developmental disabilities so they will become empowered to be self-determined.

## Objective 1:

The Council will increase and support opportunities for persons with I/DD who are community leaders, to provide leadership training and (peer) mentoring that will prepare and support their peers who wish to promote the positive perception and inclusion of person with I/DD in their community.

### Key Activity:

- Collaborate with schools, providers, parent groups, churches to increase recruitment of self-advocates into organizations.
- Invite the community organization groups to hear what PWDs need from them to be accessible at this forum. Learn about ballot issues in plain language. Collaboration is key here.
- The grantees we currently have
- We need to continue to push out stories of successful self-advocates (interview them) and work with local media across the state to change perceptions. This will include those successfully employed becoming leaders in the community.
- Host NPR Story Corps.
- Support self-advocacy activities/events that are occurring throughout the state through PR and outreach, technical assistance, staffing, and/or financial assistance.
- Look at the pipeline of self-advocates to increase recruitment- research what is currently being done in this state around guardianships, supported decision-making, and conservators/payees to develop a plan for 2019.

## Objective 2:

The Council will support the participation of persons with I/DD in cross disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions, groups, and civic and political life, which addresses issues of importance to persons with I/DD.

### Key Activities:

- Create more opportunities for PWDs to join commissions and boards etc by collaborating with non-disability orgs. For example, DDD was interested in partnering with us to identify self-advocates and parents to be their speakers bureau for police and first responders across the state.
- Growing the info and disseminating info on disability boards, commissions, and groups actively recruiting PWDs to boards, councils commission.
- Help coordinate a disability commission in underserved areas of the state.
- The process of participatory budgeting, in which self-advocates and their families score the grants for their area and have control over the decision.
- Put voting resources on our website – when there are elections, where, what to do...

- Work with group homes and group home staff to push voter registration and get out the vote.

### Objective 3:

The Council will establish and promote the success of one or more collaborative, culturally competent self-advocacy coalitions that are led by individuals who have I/DD and that includes representatives of unserved/underserved populations, by providing funding, technical assistance, and supports.

#### **Key Activities:**

- Offer self-advocacy organizations technical assistance, such as grant-writing assistance, trainings, quarterly convenings, help with outreach, etc.
- Pilot a project using virtual technology and face to face self-advocacy groups to see if that technology aids groups' sustainability statewide and facilitates connections between and within regions.
- Start coordinating the self-advocacy groups, so they are more united. Start assisting or leading in the coordination of regional groups. Determine what their needs are and provide assistance where possible.
- Have some type of forum or conference for all self-advocates to get together in different regions of the state to learn how to community organize; and for local community groups to learn how to be more accessible. Collaborate with non-disability community organization groups.